A few more applications claiming exemption on the same ground are also pending final decision since certain details and clarifications in this regard are awaited from the concerned manufacturing companies. The criteria being applied by this Committee is the same as was recommended in the Supplementary Report of the Kelkar Committee.

Government have now taken decisions on all the major recommendtions of the Supplementary Report of the Kelkar Committee.

Development of Cochin Airport for operating airbus services

668. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop Cochin airport for operating airbus services; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Coal Production Target

669. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the target for the production of coal in the country fixed for the year 1990-91;

(b) whether the target for the year 1989-90 has been fully achieved; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) The target for production of coal in 1990-91 has been projected as 221 million tonnes in the Annual Plan of the Department of Coal.

(b) The target for coal production in the current year (i.e. 1989-90) was fixed at 209.50 million tonnes. During the first 11 months of the year (i.e. April, 89 to February, 1990) total production of coal has been 177.10 million tonnes against cumulative target of 187.42 million tonnes.

(c) The shortfall in production has been due to loss of production in two subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. (*viz.*, ECL and BCCL) and also in Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd., on account of power failure, non-availability of land, localised strikes, absenteeism, breakdown of machinery, late commissioning of projects etc.

Oil Exploration in the Bay of Bengal

670. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake intensive oil exploration programme in the Bay of Bengal Basin during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, what are the details of the areas earmarked for oil exploration in the Bengal Basin; and

(c) what is the total amount of investment proposed to be made for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Oil exploration activity is going to be continued during the Eighth Plan period by Oil and Natural Gas Commission in both onshore and offshore Bengal Basin and by Oil India Ltd. in Offshore Bengal Basin. Exploration activities will be continued on the basis of exploration leads obtained from time to time.

(b) Areas earmarked for oil exploration in the onland part of Bengal Basin are in and around Nadia District, Midnapur District, Murshidabad District, in the areas adjoining Purnea Basin and the plains South of Himalayan Foot-Hills. In the offshore, the area earmarked for oil exploration in the Bengal Basin lies in the south of Contai upto the water depth of 18 meters.

(c) The Plan outlay for this purpose will be decided only after the finalisation of Eighth Plan as a whole.

Incentives for non-conventional Energy Producers

671. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether incentives are extended to the producers of non-conventional energy ;

(b) if so, whether the incentives are common to all types of non-conventional energy producers ;

(c) if there is any variation in extending incentives, what are the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether Government propose to provide similarl incentives to all types of non-conventional energy producers ;

(e) whether any public financial institutions have been established to assist non-conventional energy producers; and

(f) whether these institutions have their regional branches; if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir, incentives are extended by the Government of India to the users and manufacturers of equipment for production of energy from non-conventional energy sources.

(b) to (d) The incentives extended by the Central Government include accelerated depreciation allowance on plant and machinery, exemptions from excise and customs duties on specified renewable energy devices and systems, scientific and technical instruments and equipments, de-licensing of equipments for exploitation of non-conventional sources of energy, financial subsidies, and provision of loans by financial institutions on concessional terms. These incentives are common to similar systems and devices, equipments, and scientific and technical instruments ; however, incentives such as subsidies and concessional loans and customs duties may vary from case to case depending upon, *inter-alia*, technology, indigenous availability of materials, components and devices, and the scheme to be implemented.

(e) and (f) While the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency has no regional branches, various other financial institutions which also provide credit on concessional terms for the manufacture and use